



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
M. MICHAEL ROUNDS, GOVERNOR

April 24, 2006

Dorcas R. Hardy, Chairman
WHCoA Policy Committee
4350 East-West Highway 3rd Floor
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Chairman Hardy:

I have received the preliminary report of the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA). Thank you for sharing this information with me in a timely manner and allowing comments before the final report is presented to the President and Congress in June 2006.

Through the Council on Aging, plans are in place to identify and prioritize the resolutions the delegates voted on at the WHCoA conference. The council members and delegates will continue to work with the resolutions and establish a timeline. Our South Dakota delegates are scheduled to meet May 31 – June 1 to discuss the resolutions and determine how the resolutions can best be implemented to create a strategic plan. I have also tasked the South Dakota Department of Social Services with the responsibility of reviewing the resolutions and offering me their recommendations.

As you know, we must be supportive of innovative, fiscally responsible and realistic implementation strategies to ensure the resolutions have the greatest opportunity to become reality. Work on these strategies will be ongoing. Many of these strategies reflect actions that must be taken by the federal government, as well as by state government.

I appreciate the unselfish commitment you have made to this effort. I commend you for your ability to bring hundreds of individuals together and organize a grassroots effort that will carry us through the next 10 years. As a baby boomer, I truly look forward to the years ahead and the opportunities I will experience due to the fine work of so many caring individuals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Michael Rounds".

M. Michael Rounds